

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

VOL. XXII. NO. 47.

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1904.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

W. L. Moore

Letters From the People.

Local Patriotism Appears to Be Aroused and Bloomfield's Defenders are Numerous and Active.

Adverse Sentiment.

The Matter of Public School Education a Leading Factor—Home Rule Over the Schools Desired—Predictions that Newark's Tax Rate will Go Higher—Newark's Large Unincorporated Territory.

"LET US HAVE PEACE"

The General Desire of Those Who are Tired of the Turmoil and Strife.

A Veteran's Wall.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN: Six: Two years ago I went with the Old Guard to Trenton and shouted against annexation. Not many months ago I fell in line with the Old Guard and voiced my sentiments in favor of a public palace for municipal use on the Nash property. The palace was to cost \$50,000, and was to be the crowning glory of dear old Bloomfield. Not many weeks since, in response to the call to arms from the Old Guard, I voted against paying the Orange Water Company \$150,000 for its plant, and accepted the Old Guard's advice to pay \$90,000 for the plant. Now I understand that the Old Guard has again called out the reserves to fight against municipal buildings and to knock out water bonds, and then beat a hasty retreat to Newark. Such orders and counterorders, such marching and countermarching, and such cross-cross string make me dizzy. I always had a high appreciation of the Old Guard's sense of judgment in the matter of drinks, in the selection of cigar, and particularly in local political matters, but this latest mishap has thrown me into confusion. I cannot consistently join the retreat to Newark, and much regret to see the Old Guard headed that way. The Old Guard was out every time it advocated school bonds, and slow went out on the road bonds. Where is the sense and consistency of moving up the sponge-simplifying process? annexation won out on the water bonds. Give the young recruits a chance to see what they can do in politics. We can go to Newark at any time, but it must be borne in mind that once we get under Newark's control we can never get from under it, and Newark poll taxes can always consistently spur our petitions for improvements with the contemptuous sneer, "We never asked you to come into our city." The Old Guard is confronted with the dilemma of loss of control in home affairs. The effect, it is true, will be humiliating, but why make that loss of prestige an excuse for forcing the entire power of the town in the humanizing attitude of supplicating for admission to Newark before any overtures have come from the city? The choice of honors at stake in this matter, and our people should not be deprived of it. Some of us old boys, who were born here and have spent our lives here, have all along cherished the tradition that a passport from Bloomfield will be more honored at the "pearly gates" than one from Newark. The town's reputation is better than that of the city, and the directory is less cumbersome. If the Old Guard would defer its retreat for a time at least, some of us will have secured our hearts' desire of passing to the better land with a passport from Bloomfield. Some of our friends may not attach much importance to the hereafter, and have no objection to going where the majority of New Yorkers go, but for those of us who have a dear and cherished choice, the Old Guard should have some consideration.

A VETERAN IN THE SERVICE OF THE GUARD.

Suicide or Bankruptcy.

BLOOMFIELD, March 15, 1904.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: When a business man finds that his assets are less than his liabilities, and as a remedy commits suicide, we always justify him as a coward. And yet certain men who are considered generally pretty good business men are advising the town of Bloomfield to commit suicide as a remedy for theoretical bankruptcy. Did I say advising suicide as a remedy for bankruptcy? That was an error. The immortal eighteen propose not to give the town of Bloomfield any chance to make up its own mind. They are afraid that the town does not really consider itself bankrupt. Their refusal to add a referendum to their bill was in itself an admission of certain defeat, for they have been willing to submit the matter

PROTECT your securities and valuable papers against FIRE and BURGLARS by renting a box in the Safe Deposit Vaults of The Bloomfield National Bank. Boxes to rent at \$4.00 per year and upwards.—Add.

Who pays the taxes. Come to Central Hall to-night and find out.—Add.

to the judgment of the ballot-box they would have shown thereby their confidence in a decision favorable to their own notions.

The un-American, oligarchical proposal at first submitted by the immortal eighteen aforesaid, was an unforgivable affront to the neighbors of these men, many of whom are more competent than themselves to form opinions upon public matters. However, the immortals evidently supposed that annexation of the town of Bloomfield to Newark is a private matter for them to decide. In taking this ground they have made a very great mistake. Every one of them has lost what little prestige he used to have here. Even the persons who now will vote for annexation, will be ashamed of the fact that they are voting with the oligarchs.

It is the same with the tax rate of the Sixteenth Ward of Newark, which is lower than that of Bloomfield. This action is open to debate, but I shall not debate it. What I desire to call attention to is the significant fact that the per capita cost of government in the town of Bloomfield is thirteen dollars, while the per capita cost in the city of Newark is twenty-three dollars. In consequence the average citizen of Newark is paying for himself and family about forty dollars more per annum than is the average citizen of Bloomfield, but all this matter of figures I propose to leave to others to discuss. What interests me most is the moral aspect of the matter. Would the people of the town of Bloomfield prefer to have two members of the Board of Education and two members of the City Council, rather than a fully organized town government? If so, they ought to have the right to vote on the matter. If not, the men who have proposed a bill without a referendum, ought to be retired from all positions of influence here. Such persons have no right to hold public office, for it is evidently their idea to make themselves rulers of the people, rather than servants.

A study of the curious list of the eighteen immortals reveals the fact that most of them have demonstrated their capacity for business. One of them at least has recently made a conspicuous demonstration of his inability to manage a large enterprise. I warn the modest people of the town of Bloomfield not to be too much impressed by the list of landlords and capitalists attached to this amazing document. Is there a single public spirited citizen among them? Is there a man who has ever done anything at any cost to himself for the town of Bloomfield as a matter of interest in the welfare of the community? In these one who has founded a library, or built a monument, or advanced any great public improvement at any great cost to himself. Our immortals are not, then, the very men who drove the Ridge out of Bloomfield? Have they not been in the nest of the wreckers of the town? Is not their action the worst possible advice we could take?

It is extremely significant that the eighteen immortals include one person who has already repudiated his signature to the petition. It is also significant that six other persons invited to take part in this secret conspiracy against the welfare of the town refused to do so.

Two of the members of the committee who signed the petition, Dr. Harry E. Richards and Dr. Theodore H. Ward, have since withdrawn their names from the list of signers.

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